

## REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by LaJoie (6,772,433). Claims 13-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lajoie in view of Ishizaki (6,108,002).

Independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 5, 6, 7, and 12 were amended to more clearly define the present invention. Claims 8-11 were canceled. Independent claim 1 is directed towards providing and displaying a program guide including a list of bi-directional services along with their availability information. A bi-directional services database is maintained and used to periodically update the displayed program guide. Selections of the bi-directional services can therefore be made by a subscriber depending upon their availability information. In contrast, the service table in LaJoie works in the background of a set-top box. More specifically, the service table is used to cross reference, or map, channels associated with providing content from a service provider (i.e., content channels) with different channels associated with displaying programs on a television (i.e., program channels). In this manner, a service provider maps a content channel to a program channel so that content channels can be dynamically changed while remaining mapped to a program channel. Accordingly, preferences, such as parental control, that are set up from a subscriber will still be associated with a content channel regardless of any changes made. This is inherently different than displaying a program guide with bi-directional services showing availability information that a subscriber can select. It is believed, therefore, that claim 1, as amended, is patentable over the cited art.

Claim 2, as amended, is directed towards requesting further information regarding a bi-directional service. Examples may include, program description, actors in the program, duration of the program, parental rating, etc. Claim 5, as amended, is directed towards receiving multiple requests for available bi-directional services and rendering them accordingly. Claims 6 and 7, as amended, are directed towards displaying the bi-directional services along with availability information. In this case, if the bi-directional service is not available, an option for future consumption is given. If the option is chosen, a notification displays over a viewed channel notifying that the bi-directional service is currently available. Claim 12, as amended, is directed towards continuously updating the bi-directional services database and subsequently retransmitting the program guide with updated availability information regarding the bi-directional services accordingly.

Claims 13 and 14, as amended, are directed towards a system that provides a bi-directional services database including a plurality of bi-directional services along with their availability. A program guide is then updated to display the bi-directional services along with the availability. A viewer can subsequently choose to watch a bi-directional service immediately, if available, or later when it becomes

available. The bi-directional services database is then updated to reflect the availability due to subscriber's choices and retransmitted to the plurality of subscribers.

As discussed above and for the same reasons, it is believed that claims 13 and 14 are patentable over LaJoie in view of Ishizaki either alone or in combination. Applicants respectfully submit that the teachings of Ishizaki regarding the reservation procedure are not equivalent to the teachings of the present invention for at least the following reasons. More specifically, Ishizaki provides a reservation service to a viewer in order to select a date and time, etc. to reserve a program. The subscriber can then select an available time to view a program based on the slots shown in the display. The reservation service displays only one program with the time slots and the associated fees. As mentioned above, the present invention provides a program guide including a plurality of bi-directional services along with their availability. The bi-directional services database is then updated accordingly when a bi-directional service is selected and retransmitted to a plurality of subscribers.

It is believed that claims 1-7 and 12-14, as amended, are patentable over the cited art for the reasons stated above. Reconsideration and reexamination of the present application is requested in view of the foregoing amendment and in view of the following remarks.

### CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated February 1, 2006. Claims 1-7 and 12-14 will be pending in the present application upon entry of the present amendment, with claims 1 and 13 being independent. Based on the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject patent application is in condition for allowance. Because the claims may include additional elements that are not taught or suggested by the cited art, the preceding arguments in favor of patentability are advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

Upon entry of the foregoing Response, the above-identified patent application includes 2 independent claims. Because Applicant has paid herewith for 20 total claims and 3 independent claims, Applicant submits that no additional fee is due. Should it be determined that any additional fee is due or any excess fee has been received, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to deposit account #19-0761.


Should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions that would place the subject patent application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned agent at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted:

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